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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,506	07/02/2003	Motoaki Aoyama	KOT-0078	3507

23413 7590 06/06/2007
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, ALLEN H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/612,506	Applicant(s) AOYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Allen H. Nguyen	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>see attached</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 07/02/03 has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 22-42 are objected to because of the following informalities:
Claim 22, line 3, "said image" should be changed to - - an image - -.
Claims 23-42 are objected as being dependent on claim 22.
Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-22, 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Okimoto et al. (US 6,268,926).

Regarding claim 1, Okimoto '926 discloses an apparatus for receiving an electronic mail, said apparatus comprising:

a receiving section (the mail reception system, col. 5, lines 25-35) to receive electronic mail data including image data (i.e., print data; col. 7, line 64) and finishing information (i.e., the number of sheets, onto which the print data is desired to be printed; see col. 7, lines 64-65) for image forming operation based on said image data;

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information from said electronic mail data (i.e., the mail transmission system transmits mail, including the print data, after performing a reducing process onto the print data from the original state into a reduced state so as to increase the number of pages of the print data to be printed on each sheet of paper; see col. 6, lines 31-36);

a finishing information judging section to compare said finishing information with finishing contents processible for said apparatus (i.e., it is noted that when the present print mail reception utility process 31b is executed on the computer system 8 side, the process of S984 is executed to, judge whether the printer 6 is set to the page description language as determined in S982; see col. 22, lines 15-20, and fig. 14);

a selecting section to select whether or not a changing operation of said finishing information is necessary (i.e., a mail reception system capable of adjusting the number of pages to be printed in received mail to suit the needs of the receiving user without deleting any of the data; see col. 1, lines 64-66), when

said finishing information includes a finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus (i.e., if unscheduled mail containing a large number of pages that must be printed is received, the printer on the receiving end might be occupied for a long time. As a result, important data which must be printed urgently cannot be printed right away; see col. 1, lines 58-62, and fig. 14, Unprintable S988);

a finish setting section to conduct a finish setting operation based on a result of a selecting operation conducted by said selecting section (i.e., the print mail reception utility allowing a user of the computer 10 to set his/her desire to modify a setting; see col. 16, lines 38-41, and fig. 8, Modify Setting Instruction S360).

Regarding claim 2, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising:

an electronic mail analyzing section to acquire said image data and said finishing information included in said electronic mail by analyzing said electronic mail (i.e., the print mail reception utility 31b is for receiving electronic mail (print mail, cancel mail, and ordinary mail) addressed to the personal computer 4 and for executing processing operations in correspondence with the contents of the mail; see col. 9, lines 5-9 and col. 2, lines 9-29), when receiving said electronic mail (i.e., a mail reception device capable of receiving mail from remote mail transmission device via a communication line; see col. 2, lines 5-7).

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Regarding claim 3, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising:

an apparatus-finishing content storing section to store said finishing content processible for said apparatus (i.e., a central processing unit (CPU) 122, a memory 123 storing necessary data, and a disk 124 preparing a mail spool 34 for storing received mail; see col. 8, lines 16-19, and figs. 2a, 3, Mail Spool 34).

Regarding claim 4, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus,

wherein, when said finishing information judging section determines that said finishing information (print patterns, col. 5, line 66) do not include said finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus as a comparison result (i.e., the mail reception system determines a number of sheets required to print the print data of the received mail, and determines whether the determined number of the required sheets is equal to or greater than a predetermined number; see col. 5, lines 34-37), said finishing information is applied for said finish setting operation as it is (i.e., a process for reducing the size of a print pattern defined by one page's worth of print data so that reduced print patterns defined by more than one pages' worth of print data can be printed onto one sheet of paper; see col. 6, lines 65-67).

Regarding claim 5, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus,

wherein said electronic mail analyzing section includes a finishing information rule storing section to store a rule with respect to a description of said

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finishing information (i.e., the header 50b of the print mail further includes print information (processing format data) such as an indicative rule of how the print data included in the attached file is desired to be printed at the transfer destination; see col. 7, lines 53-60), and analyzes said electronic mail data based on a content stored in said finishing information rule storing section to acquire said finishing information, when analyzing said electronic mail data (i.e., file attributes such as a page description language (emulation), at which the print data is described, and the number of sheets (finishing information), onto which the print data is desired to be printed; see col. 7, lines 62-65).

Regarding claim 6, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said finishing information rule storing section stores a tag description and said finishing information while correlating them with each other (i.e., the header 50b of the print mail further includes print information (processing format data), such as an indicative rule of how the print data included in the attached file is desired to be printed at the transfer destination and also includes date and time when the print data in the attached file is desired to be printed; and file attributes such as a page description language (emulation), at which the print data is described, and the number of sheets, onto which the print data is desired to be printed; see col. 7, lines 57-65).

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Regarding claim 7, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising:

a notifying section to notify a sender of said electronic mail, when said finishing information of said electronic mail includes said finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus (i.e., if there exists no printer having this function to interpret the page description language as determined in S982 ("no" in S985), then in S988 a message is displayed in the mail log window 52 indicating that the current print mail is unprintable; see col. 22, lines 40-45, and fig. 14, Print Mail is Unprintable S988).

Regarding claim 8, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus,

wherein said notifying section notifies said sender of a fact that said finishing information includes said finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus and a processing content corresponding to said fact (i.e., if the program determines that the current mail is not print mail but ordinary mail ("no" in S981), then the process of S989 is executed to return the selection setting of the printer to its initial setting; see col. 22, lines 46-49, and fig. 13).

Regarding claim 9, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising: a notifying section to notify a sender of said finishing content processible for said apparatus (i.e., the message ID section includes data of an instruction for whether or not the user (sender) wishes to receive return mail indicative of the results of the print mail; see col. 14, lines 1-6).

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Regarding claim 10, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein finishing contents are different from each other depending on senders (i.e., the ordinary mail is transmitted to a receiving end (transfer destination) for being freely processed by a receiver according to his/her desire. The print mail is transmitted to a receiving end (transfer destination) as specifically desired by a sender to be printed at the transfer destination; see col. 7, lines 28-33).

Regarding claim 11, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising: an individual-sender finishing content storing section to store identifying information for an individual-sender and a finishing content, which is allowed for said individual-sender, while correlating them with each other (i.e., the body 50c of the ordinary mail includes a sender's message. The body 50c is also attached with a data file if necessary. The header 50b of the ordinary mail includes: a message ID identifying that mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; a subject of the mail; and the like; see col. 7, lines 44-49, and fig. 18, Mail Structure).

Regarding claim 12, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising: a sender rejecting section to stop an image-forming operation based on said image data included in said electronic mail, when an address of a sender coincides with a rejecting address established in advance (i.e., the cancel mail is transmitted by the mail server 24 to the Internet 28, along which the cancel mail is transferred until eventually arriving at the a destination. The computer system

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at the destination address will attempt to prevent the printing of the print mail indicated by the one or more cancel message IDs included in the cancel mail. The computer system will delete data of the print mail; see col. 14, lines 42-49).

Regarding claim 13, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising: a sender restricting section to allow an image-forming operation based on said image data included in said electronic mail, only when an address of a sender coincides with an allowed address established in advance (i.e., the header 50b of the ordinary mail includes: a message ID identifying that mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; a subject of the mail; and the like; see col. 7, lines 46-49, and fig. 1).

Regarding claim 14, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising: an image-forming section to conduct an image-forming operation based on said image data (i.e., the process of S983 may be modified to set a printer, which is capable of interpreting the page description language of the print data and which is capable printing the color-printing type of the print data, to a function mode to interpret the page description language of the print data and to print the print data at the corresponding color-printing type; see col. 26, lines 35-40, and fig. 13).

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Regarding claim 15, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising: a finishing section to apply a finish processing to a formed image (i.e., an initialization screen is displayed on a display 135 for allowing a user of the computer 10 to set his/her desire to modify a setting of the print mail reception utility process; see col. 16, lines 37-40, and fig. 8, Modify Setting Instruction S360); wherein said finishing section performs said finish processing based on said finish setting (i.e., the program receives input from the user for modifying the setting conditions, the program determines the page description language of the print data based on the page description language code; see col. 21, lines 55-57, and fig. 8).

Regarding claim 16, Okimoto '926 discloses an apparatus for receiving an electronic mail, said apparatus comprising:

a receiving section (the mail reception system, col. 5, lines 25-35) to receive electronic mail data including image data (print data; col. 7, line 64) and finishing information (i.e., the number of sheets, onto which the print data is desired to be printed; see col. 7, lines 64-65) for image forming operation based on said image data;

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information from said electronic mail data (i.e., the mail transmission system transmits mail, including the print data, after performing a reducing process onto the print data from the original state into a reduced state so as to increase the

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number of pages of the print data to be printed on each sheet of paper; see col. 6, lines 31-36);

a finishing information judging section to compare said finishing information with a finishing content processible for said apparatus (i.e., it is noted that when the present print mail reception utility process 31b is executed on the computer system 8 side, the process of S984 is executed to, judge whether the printer 6 is set to the page description language as determined in S982; see col. 22, lines 15-20, and fig. 14);

a process selecting section to select whether a processing operation should be proceeded or stopped, when said finishing information includes a finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus as a comparison result conducted in said finishing information judging section (i.e., if the print data can be converted to another page description language that can be interpreted by at least one printer provided on the receiving end, the process of S988 may be modified to convert the print data into the page description language interpretable by the at least one printer. Then, the thus converted print data is printed by that printer. If the print data cannot be converted into any other page description languages interpretable by at least one receiving end printer, the mail log window 52 will display a message indicating that the print mail is unprintable; see col. 25, lines 61-67; col. 26, lines 1-5, and fig. 14).

Regarding claim 17, Okimoto '926 discloses an apparatus for receiving an electronic mail, said apparatus comprising:

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a receiving section (the mail reception system, col. 5, lines 25-35) to receive electronic mail data including image data (print data; col. 7, line 64) and finishing information (i.e., the number of sheets, onto which the print data is desired to be printed; see col. 7, lines 64-65) for image forming operation based on said image data;

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information from said electronic mail data (i.e., the mail transmission system transmits mail, including the print data, after performing a reducing process onto the print data from the original state into a reduced state so as to increase the number of pages of the print data to be printed on each sheet of paper; see col. 6, lines 31-36);

a finishing information judging section to compare said finishing information with a finishing content processible for said apparatus (i.e., it is noted that when the present print mail reception utility process 31b is executed on the computer system 8 side, the process of S984 is executed to, judge whether the printer 6 is set to the page description language as determined in S982; see col. 22, lines 15-20, and fig. 14);

a process stopping section to stop a finish processing, when said finishing information includes a finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus as a comparison result conducted in said finishing information judging section (i.e., if there exists no printer capable of interpreting the page description language of the print data ("no" in S985), then a message is displayed in S988 in the mail log

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window 52 indicating that the print mail is unprintable; see col. 25, lines 57-61, and fig. 14, Print Mail is Unprintable S988).

Regarding claim 18, Okimoto '926 discloses an apparatus for receiving an electronic mail, said apparatus comprising:

a receiving section (the mail reception system, col. 5, lines 25-35) to receive electronic mail data including image data (print data; col. 7, line 64) and finishing information (i.e., the number of sheets, onto which the print data is desired to be printed; see col. 7, lines 64-65) for image forming operation based on said image data;

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information from said electronic mail data (i.e., the mail transmission system transmits mail, including the print data, after performing a reducing process onto the print data from the original state into a reduced state so as to increase the number of pages of the print data to be printed on each sheet of paper; see col. 6, lines 31-36);

a finishing information judging section to compare said finishing information with a finishing content processible for said apparatus (i.e., it is noted that when the present print mail reception utility process 31b is executed on the computer system 8 side, the process of S984 is executed to, judge whether the printer 6 is set to the page description language as determined in S982; see col. 22, lines 15-20, and fig. 14);

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a finish setting section to conduct a finish setting operation (i.e., the print mail reception utility allowing a user of the computer 10 to set his/her desire to modify a setting; see col. 16, lines 38-41, and fig. 8, Modify Setting Instruction S360), which does not include a finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus, after changing said finishing information in respect to said finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus (i.e., the print data can be converted to another page description language that can be interpreted by at least one printer provided on the receiving end, the process of S988 may be modified to convert the print data into the page description language interpretable by the at least one printer. Then, the thus converted print data is printed by that printer; see col. 25, lines 61-67, and fig. 14), when said finishing information includes said finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus as a comparison result conducted in said finishing information judging section.

Regarding claim 19, Okimoto '926 discloses a system for communicating an electronic mail, said system comprising:

an electronic mail creating apparatus to create electronic mail data including image data and finishing information (i.e., the network systems capable of transferring electronic mail there through can be used for transmitting print mail and the processing format of the print data between the computer systems 8 and 22; see col. 35, lines 49-52, and fig. 1);

an electronic mail receiving apparatus that includes a receiving section to receive said electronic mail data including said image data and said finishing

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information transmitted by said electronic mail creating apparatus (i.e., the computer at the transmitting end creates the electronic mail so that the electronic mail includes print data which is prepared by a printer driver or the like. The computer on the receiving end can directly extract the print data from the mail and then output that data directly to the printer; see col. 1, lines 45-50), and a finishing information judging section to compare said finishing information with a finishing content processible for said apparatus (i.e., it is noted that when the present print mail reception utility process 31b is executed on the computer system 8 side, the process of S984 is executed to, judge whether the printer 6 is set to the page description language as determined in S982; see col. 22, lines 15-20, and fig. 14), to conduct an image-forming operation based on said finishing information (i.e., this judgment is performed based on the setting conditions already set by the user during the process of S380; see col. 20, lines 21-23, and fig. 8);

wherein said electronic mail receiving apparatus notify said electronic mail creating apparatus, when said finishing information includes said finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus as a comparison result conducted in said finishing information judging section (i.e., if there exists no printer capable of interpreting the page description language of the print data ("no" in S985), then a message is displayed in S988 in the mail log window 52 indicating that the print mail is unprintable; see col. 25, lines 52-60, and fig. 14).

Regarding claim 20, Okimoto '926 discloses a system for communicating an electronic mail, said system comprising:

an electronic mail creating apparatus to create electronic mail data including image data and finishing information (i.e., the network systems capable of transferring electronic mail there through can be used for transmitting print mail and the processing format of the print data between the computer systems 8 and 22; see col. 35, lines 49-52, and fig. 1);

an electronic mail receiving apparatus that includes a receiving section to receive said electronic mail data including said image data and said finishing information transmitted by said electronic mail creating apparatus (i.e., the computer at the transmitting end creates the electronic mail so that the electronic mail includes print data which is prepared by a printer driver or the like. The computer on the receiving end can directly extract the print data from the mail and then output that data directly to the printer; see col. 1, lines 45-50), to conduct an image-forming operation based on said finishing information (i.e., this judgment is performed based on the setting conditions already set by the user during the process of S380; see col. 20, lines 21-23, and fig. 8);

wherein said electronic mail receiving apparatus notify said electronic mail creating apparatus of finishing information processible for said electronic mail receiving apparatus (i.e., if the print data can be converted to another page description language that can be interpreted by at least one printer provided on the receiving end, the process of S988 may be modified to convert the print data into the page description language interpretable by the at least one printer. Then,

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the thus converted print data is printed by that printer; see col. 25, lines 61-67, and fig. 19, mail log data 53a), corresponding to an inquiry from said electronic mail creating apparatus to said electronic mail receiving apparatus (i.e., one or more sets of mail log data 52a indicative of one or more sets of mail data (print mail and ordinary mail) already received from the mail spool 34; see col. 17, lines 18-22, and fig. 3, Mail Spool 34 and fig. 19, Internet Print Agent 52).

Regarding claim 21, Okimoto '926 discloses a system for communicating an electronic mail, said system comprising:

an electronic mail creating apparatus that acquires image data and an address of a receiver when creating said electronic mail (i.e., the header 50b of the ordinary mail includes: a message ID identifying that mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; a subject of the print mail; see col. 7, lines 46-49), to create electronic mail data including said image data (i.e., The header 50b of the print mail further includes print information (processing format data) indicative of how the print data included in the attached file is desired to be printed at the transfer destination; see col. 7, lines 57-60), said address of said receiver and finishing information for forming an image based on said image data (i.e., the print mail reception utility 31b is for receiving electronic mail (print mail, cancel mail, and ordinary mail) addressed to the personal computer 4 and for executing processing operations in correspondence with the contents of the mail; see col. 9, lines 5-9);

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an electronic mail receiving apparatus comprising:

a receiving section to receive electronic mail data including image data and finishing information for image forming operation based on said image data (i.e., when mail sent from one computer is received by another computer, the received data is temporarily stored as mail data in a storage device, such as a hard disk drive, provided to the receiving end computer; see col. 1, lines 20-22, and fig. 1, the mail transmission/reception system 2);

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and said finishing information from said electronic mail data (i.e., a mail transmission/reception system . More specifically, a mail reception system provided to a computer system capable of receiving mail from another computer system via a communication line and a mail transmission system provided to a computer system capable of transmitting mail to another computer system via a communication line; see col. 1, lines 5-15, and fig. 1, PC 4, 10, 12);

a finishing information judging section to compare said finishing information with finishing contents processible for said apparatus (i.e., it is noted that when the present print mail reception utility process 31b is executed on the computer system 8 side, the process of S984 is executed to, judge whether the printer 6 is set to the page description language as determined in S982; see col. 22, lines 15-20, and fig. 14);

a selecting section to select whether or not a changing operation of said finishing information is necessary (i.e., a mail reception system capable of adjusting the number of pages to be printed in received mail to suit the needs of

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the receiving user without deleting any of the data; see col. 1, lines 64-66), when said finishing information includes a finishing content unprocessable for said apparatus (i.e., if unscheduled mail containing a large number of pages that must be printed is received, the printer on the receiving end might be occupied for a long time. As a result, important data which must be printed urgently cannot be printed right away; see col. 1, lines 58-62, and fig. 14, Unprintable S988);

a finish setting section to conduct a finish setting operation based on a result of a selecting operation conducted by said selecting section (i.e., the print mail reception utility allowing a user of the computer 10 to set his/her desire to modify a setting; see col. 16, lines 38-41, and fig. 8, Modify Setting Instruction S360).

Regarding claim 22, Okimoto '926 discloses an apparatus for communicating an electronic mail, said apparatus comprising:

an acquiring section to acquire said image data and an address of a receiver of said electronic mail (i.e., a mail transmission/reception system . More specifically, a mail reception system provided to a computer system capable of receiving mail from another computer system via a communication line and a mail transmission system provided to a computer system capable of transmitting mail to another computer system via a communication line; see col. 1, lines 5-15, and fig. 1, PC 4, 10, 12);

an electronic mail creating section to create electronic mail data including finishing information described by said image data (i.e., the computer at the

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transmitting end creates the electronic mail so that the electronic mail includes print data which is prepared by a printer driver or the like. The computer on the receiving end can directly extract the print data from the mail and then output that data directly to the printer; see col. 1, lines 45-50), said address of said receiver of said electronic mail and a tag (i.e., the header 50b of the ordinary mail includes: a message ID identifying that mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; a subject of the mail; and print information (processing format data); see col. 7, lines 53-57).

Regarding claim 24, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said finishing information are described in a main description of said electronic mail (i.e., this process decreases spaces between the lines and between characters, as well as the size of the respective characters, and converts four pages' worth of data into a one-page layout is the finishing information; see col. 23, lines 14-16).

Regarding claim 25, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said finishing information are described in a header of said electronic mail (i.e., the header 50b of the print mail further includes print information (processing format data) indicative of how the print data included in the attached file is desired to be printed at the transfer destination; see col. 7, lines 57-60, and fig. 18, Mail Structure 50b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 23, 26-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okimoto et al. (US 6,268,926) in view of Ferlitsch (US 2003/0117638).

Regarding claim 23, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said finishing information includes at least one of a designation of color or black and white (i.e., the mail header may include data indicating whether the print data included in the attached file is representative of a single color image or a full color image; see col. 26, lines 11-13), a designation of reduction operation (i.e., the mail transmission system transmits the mail with the print data after performing the reduction process onto the print data; see col. 6, lines 47-49).

It is noted that Okimoto '926 does not explicitly show the use of designation of a punching operation.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Ferlitsch '638. In particular, Ferlitsch '638 teaches the use of designation of a punching operation (i.e., finishing aspects of the print job may include, among others, such things as stapling, three-hole punching, saddle

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stitching, insertion of a transparent sheet, and mail trays; see page 6, paragraph [0060]).

In view of the above, having the system of Okimoto '926 and then given the well-established teaching of Ferlitsch '638, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Okimoto '926 as taught by Ferlitsch '638, since Ferlitsch '638 stated on page 1, paragraph [0004] that such a modification would ensure users are able to employ the systems to perform a variety of tasks.

Regarding claim 26, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising:

an image data acquiring section to acquire said image data (i.e., the mail header may include data indicating whether the print data included in the attached file is representative of a single color image or a full color image; see col. 26, lines 11-13);

a receiver acquiring section to acquire said address of said receiver of said electronic mail (i.e., the header 50b of the ordinary mail includes: a message ID identifying that mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; a subject of the print mail; see col. 7, lines 46-49, and fig. 1);

a finishing information acquiring section to acquire said finishing information for forming an image (i.e., the process of S982 may be modified to determine what page description language is used to describe the print data and

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to determine whether the print data is indicative of a full color image or a monochromatic image; see col. 26, lines 28-31, and fig. 13);

an electronic mail data generating section to generate said electronic mail data (i.e., the computer at the transmitting end creates the electronic mail so that the electronic mail includes print data which is prepared by a printer driver; see col. 1, lines 48-50) including said address of said receiver (i.e., the header 50b of the ordinary mail includes: a message ID identifying that mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; a subject of the mail; see col. 7, lines 57-60), said finishing information and said image data.

Regarding claim 27, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said electronic mail data generating section is so constituted that it generates said electronic mail data (i.e., data of an envelope 50a constructed from delivery data; data of a header 50b including data to be used by an electronic mail program executed by the Internet 28, and data of a body section 50c including mail contents to be used by a receiver at the transfer destination; see col. 7, lines 39-43, and fig. 18), which has said address at a header (i.e., the header 50b of the ordinary mail includes: a message ID identifying that mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; a subject of the mail; see col. 7, lines 57-60), said finishing information provided as a main description and said image data added to said main description (i.e., it is noted that the page description language describing the subject print data is

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converted in S995 so that print data equivalent to four pages before conversion is reduced to one page of print data; see col. 23, lines 14-16).

Regarding claim 28, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said image data acquiring section is provided with an image data storing section in which said image data are stored (i.e., in S850 the program stores, in the mail log data storage area, information on the storage area in which the subject mail data is stored; see col. 20, lines 40-43, and figs. 2b).

Regarding claim 29, it is noted that Okimoto '926 does not explicitly show the apparatus, wherein said image data acquiring section is provided with a scanner for reading an image to generate said image data.

However, the above-mentioned claimed limitation is well known in the art as evidenced by Ferlitsch '638. In particular, Ferlitsch '638 teaches the apparatus, wherein said image data acquiring section is provided with a scanner for reading an image to generate said image data (i.e., one or more input interfaces 20 may be employed to enable a user to enter data and/or instructions to computer device 10 through one or more corresponding input devices 32. Example of such input devices include a scanner; see page 4, paragraph [0044]).

In view of the above, having the system of Okimoto '926 and then given the well-established teaching of Ferlitsch '638, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system of Okimoto '926 as taught by Ferlitsch '638, since Ferlitsch '638 stated on

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page 1, paragraph [0004] that such a modification would ensure users are able to employ the systems to perform a variety of tasks.

Regarding claim 30, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said receiver acquiring section is provided with a receiver inputting section for setting a receiver by means of an inputting operation of a sending operator (i.e., the mail reception system may control a display device to display a message urging the operator to input confirmation via an input device whether the print data in the mail should be printed in the reduced state; see col. 5, lines 63-66).

Regarding claim 31, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said receiver acquiring section is provided with a receiver storing section for memorizing a receiver (i.e., the print mail reception utility 31b prepares a mailbox 40 at a specific directory in an external memory, such as the hard disk drive 134, provided to the personal computer 4. The mail box 40 may be prepared in the RAM 133 provided in the personal computer 4. When the print mail reception utility 31b starts executing, the print mail reception utility 31b starts repeatedly requesting, at predetermined time intervals, to memorizing a receiver; see col. 10, lines 22-34, and figs. 2b-3).

Regarding claim 32, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said finishing information acquiring section is provided with a finishing information inputting section for setting said finishing information by means of an inputting

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operation of a sending operator (i.e., the mail reception system may control the printer to print the print data in the original state when the operator inputs confirmation that the print data should not be printed in the reduced state or when the number of sheets is smaller than the predetermined number; see col. 6, lines 3-7).

Regarding claim 33, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said finishing information acquiring section can acquire only such finishing information that are described by a rule established in advance (i.e., it is noted that the print mail reception utility process 31b is executed on the computer system 8 side, the process of S984 is executed to, judge whether the printer 6 is set to the page description language as determined in S982; see col. 22, lines 14-18, and figs. 13-14).

Regarding claim 34, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said rule relates to a description by a tag (i.e., the number of sheets required to print the print data is determined based on the file attribute data (rule of page number data and the copy number data), such as the print data is compacted so that every four pages' worth of the print data will be printed onto one sheet of paper; see col. 31, lines 32-38, and fig. 15, S995).

Regarding claim 35, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said finishing information acquiring section is provided with a finishing content storing

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section for storing finishing content data being acquirable (i.e., the header 50b of the print mail includes print information (processing format data) indicative of how the print data included in the attached file is desired to be printed at the transfer destination. The print information includes: date and time when the print data in the attached file is desired to be printed; and file attributes such as a page description language (emulation), at which the print data is described, and the number of sheets, onto which the print data is desired to be printed; see col. 7, lines 57-65).

Regarding claim 36, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising:

a model finishing content storing section (i.e., a mail reception system, wherein the receiving means receives the print data that represents a print pattern in a normal size; see col. 40, line 65) to store a finishing content being processible as data of every model (i.e., print patterns defined by more than one pages' worth of print data can be printed onto one sheet of paper; see col. 6, line 65) for a finishing section (fig. 4, Display Print Settings S102).

Regarding claim 37, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising: a receiver model data storing section that stores model data of a finishing section provided in said receiver while correlating it to receiver identifying information (i.e., a mail reception system, wherein the receiving

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means receives the print data that represents a print pattern in a normal size; see col. 40, line 65).

Regarding claim 38, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said apparatus is so constituted that said apparatus acquires receiver identifying information to identify a receiver (i.e., the header 50b of the print mail includes: a message ID identifying that print mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; a subject of the print mail. The header 50b of the print mail further includes print information (processing format data) indicative of how the print data included in the attached file is desired to be printed at the transfer destination; see col. 7, lines 57-60, and fig. 1), and can select a finishing content being usable for a finishing section provided in said receiver (i.e., when "mail" is selected for the "output" selection in the print process setting screen in S130, the print data is transferred as a set of file data in S150 to a predetermined storage area in the RAM 133 of the personal computer 4 so that the print data will be transferred to the print mail transmission utility 31a; see col. 12, lines 43-48, and fig. 4).

Regarding claim 39, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein said apparatus is so constituted that said apparatus acquires receiver identifying information (i.e., a message ID identifying that mail; an address of a mail server (24 or 28) connected to the sender; an address of the transfer destination; see col. 7, lines 46-49), and acquires receiver model data from said receiver model

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data storing section (i.e., a mail reception system, wherein the receiving means receives the print data that represents a print pattern in a normal size; see col. 40, line 65), based on said receiver identifying information, and acquires a finishing content being selectable from model finishing content storing section (i.e., when "mail" is selected for the "output" selection in the print process setting screen in S130, the print data is transferred as a set of file data in S150 to a predetermined storage area in the RAM 133 of the personal computer 4 so that the print data, a print pattern defined by one page's worth of print data, will be transferred to the print mail transmission utility 31a; see col. 12, lines 43-48, and fig. 4), based on said model data.

Regarding claim 40, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising: an inquiring section to inquire a finishing content being processible for a receiver from said receiver (i.e., if the print data can be converted to another page description language that can be interpreted by at least one printer provided on the receiving end, the process of S988 may be modified to convert the print data into the page description language interpretable by the at least one printer. Then, the thus converted print data is printed by that printer; see col. 25, lines 61-66, and fig. 14).

Regarding claim 41, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, wherein, when said inquiring section obtains said finishing content being processible for said receiver (i.e., data of a body section 50c including mail contents to be used by a

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receiver at the transfer destination; see col. 7, line 42), said finishing information acquiring section can acquire only such finishing information that are limited within said finishing content (i.e., the program may first interpret the contents of the page description language based on the print data included in the attached file read in S992 and S1210; see col. 32, lines 17-20, and fig. 15).

Regarding claim 42, Okimoto '926 discloses the apparatus, further comprising:

a communicating section to communicate said electronic mail by coupling to a network (i.e., a mail reception device capable of receiving mail from remote mail transmission device via a communication line; see col. 2, lines 5-7, and fig. 1, Internet 28).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Motoyama et al. (US 6,581,092) discloses method and system for remote diagnostic, control and information collection based on various communication modes for sending messages to users.

Tammi et al. (US 5,726,897) discloses mail assembly system and method.

Parry (US 2003/0063309) discloses e-mail to job retention.

Carlin et al. (US 2002/0184324) discloses method and system for electronic commingling of hybrid mail.


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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571)-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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